
HOW TO
SPELL
CORRECTLY

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HOW TO SPELL CORRECTLY


INCLUDING
A SHORT IMPROVEMENT COURSE
FOR POOR SPELLERS

By
PROFESSOR DUNCAN

Author of
"HOW TO TALK CORRECTLY"
"HOW TO WRITE CORRECTLY"


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PREFACE

THIS book is not intended to teach spelling from its very commencement. It is designed to improve the spelling of those who feel a need for improvement. In this world of hustle and bustle, the spare time of people is limited. The author has borne that fact in mind and has reduced the introductory matter of the subject to a minimum and included only that which is necessary. A short "Improvement Course" has been drawn up which should help the reader to become an accurate speller in the space of a single month.

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How to Spell Correctly

SECTION I

I

INTRODUCTION

Six people out of every dozen are conscious of the fact that their spelling is not as perfect as it ought to be. In other branches of learning, they may feel satisfied that their knowledge will pass muster, but when it comes to writing a letter or putting down on paper a description of some business matter, they have to turn to the dictionary, or else eliminate words which should properly be included in the composition. Worse still are the people who do not recognise their inability to spell and who commit all sorts of blunders which their friends quickly perceive.

Until about the time of Waterloo, spelling was not an exact science, and people, even the educated ones, wrote pretty much as they liked. We have before us some documents penned by high Government officials of the time of William IV. In them we find the same words spelt sometimes in three different ways on the same page and it seems that as long as a word could be recognised it mattered little what letters were used in suggesting it.

But the days when spelling can be indulged in according to one's fancies are gone for ever, and now a rather high standard is put on the art. The Civil Service examinations lay particular stress on correct

spelling, and all business houses look with great disfavour on those of their clerks and typists who commit many mistakes.

Some people claim that spelling is a waste of time. In many ways it certainly is and for a number of reasons we would welcome the introduction of the "Nu Spellin." But until everybody decides to write phonetically, it is no use an isolated individual following his own dictates. If he does, he will very soon be searching for a fresh post and his friends will rate him an ignoramus.

There is no doubt that the spelling of English words is no easy task. Few languages are as difficult as ours. The reason is that our language is derived not from one but from many sources and each particular source has its own rules and regulations. Clearly, then, the best way to become an adept at orthography is to learn Latin, Anglo-Saxon, French, German and all the other languages from which our words are derived. We should then know the derivation of such and such a word and the rest would be easy. But this is not a practical solution of the difficulty. To learn the rudiments of these languages would absorb a lifetime. There is another way and that is to note certain useful rules and to classify the majority of the words which present pitfalls. That is the way which has been adopted in the pages which follow. The matter has been divided into sections or lessons. The reader who would learn to spell correctly is advised to memorize the contents of one section each day. The sections are short enough to be digested in a few moments and this book is small enough to be carried easily in the pocket. On the way up to town in the morning or when in the train at night, one section could be mastered comfortably. On no account should an attempt be made to absorb the whole book at one or two sittings. No progress will be made in that way. If, however, the reader will decide to take himself in hand, and spend a few moments

every working day for a fortnight or a month, he will derive a lasting good from his efforts. We speak from practical experience. We used to spell excruciatingly, but, by doing as we suggest here, materially improved ourselves. Now we are not embarrassed or harassed by such words as accommodation, escutcheon and independent, and we are conscious of the fact that we do not commit errors at every turn.

II

CAUTIONARY VERSES

By way of a little piece of fun, we give below a poem by Tom Hood which depends largely on spelling for its humour. It is suggested that the reader should ask someone to dictate the verses to him and then for him to see how many mistakes he has made. Should it be letter perfect, he may well congratulate himself, since few people will manage to get it absolutely correct. If, however, there are more than five errors, we venture to suggest that a course of orthography is badly needed and we advise such readers to turn to the lessons straight away and master one a day.

My little dears who learn to read, pray early learn
to shun
That very silly thing, indeed, which people call a
pun;
Read Entinck's rules, and 'twill be found how
simple an offence
It is to make the selfsame sound afford a double
sense.

For instance, *ale* may make you *ail*, your *aunt* an
ant may kill;
You in a *vale* may buy a *veil*, and *Bill* may pay the
bill.

Or if to France your barque you steer, at Dover it
may be,
A *peer* appears upon the *pier*, who, blind, still goes
to *sea*.

Thus one might say when to a treat good friends
accept our greeting,
'Tis *meet* that men who *meet* to eat, should eat their
meat when *mceting*.
Brawn on the *board*'s no *bore* indeed, although from
boar prepared ;
Nor can the *fowl* on which we feed, *foul* feeding be
declared.

Thus one ripe fruit may be a *pear*, and yet be *pared*
again,
And still be one, which seemeth rare until we do
explain.
It therefore should be all your aim to speak with
ample care ;
For who, however fond of game, would choose to
swallow *hair* ?

A fat man's *gait* may make us smile, who has no
gate to close ;
The farmer, sitting on his *stile*, no *stylish* person
knows.
Perfumers men of *scents* must be ; some *Scilly* men
are bright ;
A brown man oft deep *read* we see—a black, a
wicked *wight*.

Most wealthy men good *manors* have, however
wealthy they ;
And actors still the harder slave, the oftener they
play.
So poets can't the *baize* obtain, unless their tailors
choose ;
While grooms and coachmen, not in vain, each
evening seek the *mews*.

The *dye*r who by *dyeing* lives, a *dire* life maintains ;
The glazier, it is known, receives—his profits from his *panes*.
By gardeners *thyme* is *tied*, 'tis true, when spring is in its prime ;
But *time* and *tide* won't wait for you, if you are *tied* for *time*.

Then now you see, my little dears, the way to make a pun ;
A trick which you, through coming years, should sedulously shun ;
The fault admits of no defence ; for wheresoe'er 'tis found,
You sacrifice the *sound* for *sense*—the *sense* is never *sound*.

So let your words and actions too one single meaning prove ;
And, just in all you say or do, you'll gain esteem and love ;
In mirth and play no harm you'll know, when duty's task is done,
But parents ne'er should let you go unpunished for a *pun*.

III

THE VOWELS

THIS is, unfortunately, a rather uninteresting chapter with which to set out ; but we are not asking that it should be learnt as we do in the case of subsequent passages. It clears a good deal of preliminary ground and if read and understood will be very helpful later on.

Although there are only five different vowels,

they have between them eighteen distinct sounds which must be recognised. They are as follows :

1. \bar{a} as in sad.
2. \hat{a} as in Mary.
3. \tilde{a} as in gate.
4. \acute{a} as in tart.
5. \check{e} as in wed.
6. \bar{e} as in he.
7. \imath as in fit.
8. i as in kind.
9. δ as in gone.
10. \bar{o} as in zero.
11. au as in Saul.
12. \bar{o} as in stood.
13. \bar{o} as in tool.
14. \imath as in hut.
15. \bar{u} as in prude.
16. oi as in boil.
17. ou as in cloud.
18. The sound of er at the end of china, thorough and in turn.

Above, we give the simplest example of each sound that we can discover. The sounds are not so simply spelt in all other cases ; for instance, we have suggested *gate* for \tilde{a} but the same sound is found in *straighten*. Also *Saul* is given for au . We might have suggested *sword*. These additional examples show clearly what pitfalls there are in the spelling of English words.

IV

THE CONSONANTS

WHAT was said at the commencement of paragraph III applies with equal force here. The following is set out to be read rather than learnt.

The consonants consist of all the letters of the alphabet excluding the vowels, *a, e, i, o, u*. We could very well do without four of them because

a combination of other letters can always take their place. They are c, j, q, x. But there are seven distinct consonant sounds for which we have no proper letter, they will be explained at the close of the following list :

1. **b** as in boy.
2. **d** as in could.
3. **f** as in fine.
4. **g** as in got.
5. **h** as in have.
6. **j** as in just.
7. **k** as in king. (Note that k could do the work of a hard c, as in cat.)
8. **l** as in love.
9. **m** as in mend.
10. **n** as in no.
11. **p** as in put.
12. **r** as in rough.
13. **s** as in same. (Note that s could do the work of a soft c, as in century.)
14. **t** as in time.
15. **v** as in very.
16. **w** as in will.
17. **y** as in yes.
18. **z** as in zero.
19. **ch** as in chapter.
20. **ng** as in sing.
21. **th** as in this. } These are not
22. **th** as in length } quite alike
23. **sh** as in should.
24. **zh** as the s in treasure.
25. **wh** as in what.

V

A FEW NECESSARY RULES

It is very important to know a few rules but we do not believe in giving so many that the student becomes confused. Readers may rest assured that

those set out below are the minimum that should be known. They will prove very helpful.

RULE 1.—When a word ends in Y and has a consonant preceding the Y, and it is desired to change the tense or add a syllable to the word, change the Y into I and add the syllable in question.

e.g.—*Carry* becomes *carried* not *carried*.

Note I.—This rule does not apply when the added syllable begins with I.

e.g.—*Carry* becomes *carrying*.

Note II.—Nor does it apply when the addition is the possessive 's.

e.g.—*Lorry* becomes *lorry's*.

Note III.—Care must be taken to note that all we have said in this rule holds only when the Y is preceded by a consonant. If a vowel comes immediately before the Y, there is no change as a rule. But there are a few exceptions.

e.g.—*Pay* becomes *paid*.

Lay becomes *laid*.

Say becomes *said*.

RULE 2.—When it is desired to add a syllable commencing with a vowel to a word that ends with an unsounded E, omit the E and add the extra syllable.

e.g.—*Move* becomes *movable* not *moveable*.

Note I.—If the word ends with OE, do not omit the E but retain it and add the extra syllable.

e.g.—*Shoe* becomes *shoeing* not *shoing*.

Note II.—If the word ends with CE or GE, do not omit the E when OUS or ABLE are to be added.

e.g.—*Peace* becomes *peaceable*.

Courage becomes *courageous*.

my joy

Note III.—If, by omitting the E, the meaning of the word may be obscured, it should be retained.

e.g.—*Singe* becomes *singeing* and not *singing*, as this would confuse with *singing* (to sing).

Note IV.—If a word ends with EE and the syllable it is desired to add commences with an E, one of the three Es must disappear.

e.g.—*Agree* becomes *agreed* not *agreeed*.

Note V.—If the word ends in E, preceded by a soft C, change the E into an I.

e.g.—*Space* becomes *spacious*.

RULE 3.—The previous rule applies only when the added syllable commences with a vowel. If, however, the added syllable commences with a consonant, the final E is retained.

e.g.—*Peace* becomes *peaceful* not *peacful*.

But there are certain exceptions.

e.g.—*Awe* becomes *awful*.

Awe becomes *awesome*.

Acknowledge becomes *acknowledgment*.

Argue becomes *argument*.

Due becomes *duly*.

Judge becomes *judgment*.

True becomes *truly*.

Whole becomes *wholly*.

RULE 4.—No final consonant is doubled, except F, L, and S.

Note I.—The following exceptions affect this rule; *add*, *burr*, *butt*, *buzz*, *ebb*, *egg*, *err*, *inn*, *odd*, *purrr*, *rudd*.

RULE 5.—A one syllable word ending in F, L, or S which is preceded by a vowel, doubles the last consonant.

e.g.—*Ball*, *cuff*, *puss*.

Note I.—There are a good many exceptions to this rule.

e.g.—*If, of, as, gas, his, etc.*

RULE 6.—Words of more than one syllable ending in F, L, and S.

(a) Double the final F.

(b) Usually double the final S.

(c) Do not double the final L.

e.g.—(a) *Distaff*, (b) *Harass*, (c) *Until*.

Note I.—Exceptions are *Alas, atlas, bias, Christmas*.

RULE 7.—K seldom comes at the end of a word of more than one syllable.

e.g.—*Critic, Terrific, Traffic*, but *Trafficking*, also *Mimic* and *Mimicking*.

Note I.—Exceptions are *Attack, fetlock, forelock, paddock, ransack*.

RULE 8.—Words of one syllable ending in K usually have the K preceded by C after a single vowel; but have no C after a diphthong or consonant.

e.g.—*Sack* (short vowel).

Hawk (diphthong).

Bank (consonant).

Note I.—Remember, however, *zinc, disc*, which end with C, sounded like K.

RULE 9.—One syllable words and words accented on the final syllable, which end with a single vowel and a consonant, double the last consonant when a suffix beginning with a vowel is added to them. For example, if *ING* is to be added to the word *begin*, which ends with a vowel and a consonant,

the consonant N is doubled before the ING is added.

e.g.—*Beg* becomes *beggar*.
Begin becomes *beginning*.
Glad becomes *gladden*.
Confer becomes *conferred*.
Rebel becomes *rebellion*.

Note I.—Take the word *Confer* and *Conferred*, the emphasis is on the "fer" and consequently rule 9 holds good. But in making the word *Preference* from *Prefer*, the emphasis is thrown forward on to the "pref." Rule 9 does not apply in this case and that is why *Preference* does not require a double R.

RULE 10.—A word ending in LL omits one L when a suffix beginning with a consonant is added to the word.

e.g.—*Skill* becomes *skilful*.
Thrall becomes *thralldom*.

Note I.—Exceptions are *Illness*, *smallness*, *stillness*, while *dullness* and *dulness* are both considered correct.

RULE 11.—The letters EI follow C, but IE follow any other letter. Thus we write *Receive*, but *Belief*. This is a very useful rule to remember.

"I before E
 Except after C."

Note I.—There are a certain number of exceptions but in almost every case the word itself gives a sufficient clue. For instance, take *Neighbour*, according to the rule above, it should be *Nieghbour*, but the sound immediately tells us that that is wrong.

VI

THE FORMATION OF PLURAL NOUNS

It frequently happens that a word in the plural puzzles us when wishing to spell it. For instance, should we write *heros* or *heroes*? The following rules will put us right on all these matters.

RULE 1.—The general rule for forming the plural of a noun is to add an S or ES to the singular.

We add an S if the sound of the S will alter the sound of the singular word.

e.g.—*Cat* becomes *Cats*.

We add ES if the sound of S will not alter the sound of the singular word.

e.g.—*Fox* will not change its sound as *foxs* and must be written *foxes*.

RULE 2.—All nouns ending in S, SS, SH, a soft CH, X, or Z form their plural by adding ES to the singular, because the simple S would not alter the sound.

e.g.—*Gas* becomes *gases*.

Lass becomes *lasses*.

Thrush becomes *thrushes*.

Church becomes *churches*.

Chintz becomes *chintzes*.

Note 1.—The above rule only applies to the ending CH when it is soft, as in *Church*. If the CH is hard, as in *Monarch*, merely add an S, thus *Monarchs*.

RULE 3.—Nouns ending in F or FE form their plurals by changing the F or FE into VES.

e.g.—*Loaf* becomes *loaves*.

Life becomes *lives*.

Note 1.—There are eighteen exceptions to this rule, at least. Do not confuse these nouns with similar verbs.

Chief becomes *chiefs*. *Brief* becomes *briefs*.
Dwarf becomes *dwarfs*.
Fife becomes *fifes*. *Fief* becomes *fiefs*.
Grief becomes *griefs*. *Belief* becomes *beliefs*.
Gulf becomes *gulfs*.
Hoof becomes *hoofs* or *hooves*.
Proof becomes *proofs*.
Reef becomes *reefs*.
Roof becomes *roofs*. *Woof* becomes *woofs*.
Scarf becomes *scarfs* or *scarves*.
Staff becomes *stuffs* or *staves*, according to meaning.
Strife becomes *strifes*.
Turf becomes *turfs* or *turves*.
Wharf becomes *wharfs* or *wharves*.

RULE 4.—Nouns ending in Y preceded by a consonant change the Y into I and add ES.

e.g.—*Lady* becomes *ladies*.

Note I.—But if the Y is preceded by a vowel, rule 1 is followed and an S is merely added.

RULE 5.—Nouns ending in O and the O is preceded by a consonant form their plurals by adding ES.

e.g.—*Potato* becomes *potatoes*.

Hero becomes *heroes*.

Negro becomes *negroes*.

Note I.—There are the following exceptions :

Canto becomes *cantos*.

Folio becomes *folios*.

Grotto becomes *grottos* or *grottoes*.

Memento becomes *mementos* or *mementoes*.

Octavo becomes *octavos*.

Piano becomes *pianos*.

Portico becomes *porticos*.

Proviso becomes *provisos*.

Quarto becomes *quartos*.

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Solo becomes *solos*.
Tyro becomes *tyros*.
Zero becomes *zeros*.

Note II.—If the O is preceded by a vowel, the plural is formed in the ordinary way by adding S.

GENERAL REMARKS.—Some nouns have exceptional plurals, such as *Ox*, *Oxen*, but they do not come within the bounds of spelling so much as general grammar.

To the above we must add the following hint. Compound nouns form their plurals variously. There is no rule as to whether it is the first or second word that takes the plural. All we can say is that it is the chief word that has to be changed.

e.g.—*Mouse trap* becomes *mouse traps*.
Son in law becomes *sons in law*.
Court Martial becomes *courts martial*.
Spoonful becomes *spoonfuls* or *spoons full*,
 according to meaning.

VII

THE SOUND OF A

HAVING disposed of the few preliminary rules which will help us to spell an endless number of words correctly, we will now commence with the vowel A.

A can be short, as in

Map,	Bad,	Bank,	Black.
Strap,	Glad,	Bang,	Latch.

(Thousands of other examples could be given.)

A can be long, and spelt AI, as in

Mail,	Saint,	Tail,	Bail.
Ail	Plaice,	Aim,	Gait.

A can be long, and spelt A-E, as in

Age,	Paste,	Tale,	Sage.
Same,	Ate,	Have,	Wade.

A can be long, and spelt A Y, as in

Pay,	Fray,	Monday,	Moray.
Array,	Gray,	Assay,	Bay.

But note that the same sound is often spelt EY, as in

They,	Disobey,	(Curds and) whey.
Grey,	Prey,	Wey.

Again, the same sound is often spelt EI, as in

Neigh,	Eight,	Reindeer,	Rein.
Weigh,	Heir,	Skein,	Feign.

Also the same sound is spelt

EA as in Great, Wear.

AO as in gaol (often spelt jail).

A can be like AR, as in

Lath,	Dance,	Calf.
Half,	Rasp,	Carp.

But note that the same sound is spelt

AU as in Aunt, Laugh.

EA as in Heart.

E as in Derby.

UA as in Guard.

A, sounded more like AW, as follows :

A as in all.

AU as in Sauce.

AW as in Paw.

AWE as in Awe.

O as in Orphan.

OA as in Broad.

OUGH as in Thought.

EO as in George.

VIII

THE SOUND OF E

E can be short, as in

Peg,	Rent,	Men,	Bent.
Tench,	Mess,	Egg,	Cent.

E can be short and spelt EA, as in

Thread,	Ready,	Bear,	Swear.
Breath,	Meadow,	Wear,	Measure.

E can also be short and spelt

A as in Anything.

AI as in Said.

EI as in Leisure.

EO as in Leopard.

IE as in Friend.

E can be long and spelt

EE as in Beetroot.

E-E as in Mete.

EE-E as in Breeze.

EA as in Sea.

EA-E as in Sheathe.

IE as in Believe.

EI as in Receive.

Note I.—There are a few exceptions which follow no rule.

e.g.—*Quay, Phœnix, Æther* (usually spelt *Ether*), etc.

IX

THE SOUND OF I

I can be short, and spelt,

I as in Kiss.

I-E as in Assertive.

IA as in Marriage.

AI as in Captain.
 A-E as in Cabbage.
 E-E as in Privilege.
 EI as in Foreign.
 EY as in Honey.
 Y as in Funny.

I can be long, and spelt

I as in Bind.
 IE as in Die.
 I-E as in wipe.
 IGH as in Sight.
 Y as in Dry.
 UY as in Buy.

Note I.—There are a number of exceptions which follow no rule.

e.g.—*Aye* (sometimes pronounced as A), *Aisle*, *Eye*, *Eider*, etc.

X

THE SOUND OF O

THERE are but a few ways of spelling the sound of a short O. In fact, it might be claimed that there is only one way and that the others are make-shifts. The one way is to use merely the letter O, as found in

Got,	Toss,	Long,	Not.
Odd,	Frock,	Sock,	Loss.

Among the make-shifts may be mentioned :

A as in What.
 AU as in Laurel.

O can be long, and spelt

O as in Glow
 OA as in Coat.
 O-E as in Dole.

OE as in Toe.
 AU as in Mauve.
 OU as in Mould.
 OUGH as in Dough.
 OW as in Grow.

Note I.—There are a few exceptions which follow no rule.

e.g.—*Beau, Sew, Yeoman.*

XI

THE SOUND OF U

PERHAPS this is the most difficult of all vowels to reduce to rules, seeing that there are so many variations.

U can be short and spelt

U as in Sun.
 O as in Son.
 OU as in Rough.
 O-E as in Come.
 EO as in Surgeon.
 I as in Mirth.

U can be neither short nor long and spelt

U as in Pull.
 O as in Wolf.
 OO as in Wood.
 OU as in Would.
 UE as in Construe.

U can be long and spelt.

O as in Do.
 OO as in Fool.
 OU as in You.
 OE as in Shoe.
 O-E as in Lose.

OO-E as in Loose.

UE as in Glue.

U-E as in Solitude.

UI as in Suit.

EW as in Chew.

Note I.—There are numerous exceptions.
e.g.—*Through, Galleon.*

XII

USEFUL DIPHTHONGS

WHEN two vowels go to make a single sound they form a diphthong (pronounced *dif* not *dip-thong*). Three are noted below :

(1) OI, having the sound *BOY* minus the B, is spelt OI, OI-E, or OY, thus :

OI as in *soil, point.*

OI-E as in *noise, choice.*

OY as in *alloy, oyster.*

(2) EU, having the sound of U, is spelt as follows :

UE as in *due, Tuesday.*

U-E as in *tune, jujube.*

UI as in *nuisance.*

EW as in *jew.*

EU as in *neuralgia.*

(3) OU, having the sound of *HOW*, minus the H, is spelt as follows :

OU as in *drought.*

OU-E as in *house.*

OW as in *prowl.*

XIII

LETTERS THAT ARE NOT SOUNDED

HAVING noted the value of certain sounds, it is now necessary to remind the student that many words require letters in their spelling that do not form part of the sounds at all. The following should be noted. Where many words spring from the same root, only one example is generally given.

B silent.

Catacomb	Debt	Jamb	Redoubt
Climb	Doubt	Lamb	Subtle
Comb	Dumb	Limb	Thumb
Crumb	Indebted	Numb	Tomb

C silent.

Abscess	Scene	Scissors	Scimitar
Abscind	Scent	Science	Victuals
Indict	Sceptre		

CH silent.

Drachm	Schism	Yacht	
--------	--------	-------	--

G silent.

Arraign	Design	Gnaw	Reign
Assign	Ensign	Gnarl	Resign
Campaign	Foreign	Gnome	Sign
Consign	Gnash	Gnu	Sovereign
Deign	Gnat	Gnostic	

GH silent.

Aught	Eight	Neighbour	Slough
Although	Fight	Nigh	Sought
Borough	Flight	Night	Straight
Bright	Fought	Ought	Taught
Blight	Fright	Plight	Tight
Bought	Height	Plough	Thigh
Brought	High	Right	Though
Caught	Light	Sigh	Weight
Delight	Might	Sight	Wrought
Dough	Naught	Slight	

H silent.

Aghast	Ghost	Naphtha	Rhubarb
Ah	Heir	Rhapsody	Rhyme
Asthma	Honest	Rhetoric	Sarah
Catarrh	Honour	Rheum	Sirrah
Dishabille	Hour	Rheumatic	Shepherd
Elijah	Isthmus	Rhinoceros	Thames
Gherkin	Myrrh	Rhine	Thomas

H variable

Hostler	Humble	Humour	Herb
---------	--------	--------	------

K silent

Knack	Knee	Knit	Knot
Knave	Knew	Knob	Knowledge
Knapsack	Knife	Knock	Knuckle
Knead	Knight	Knoll	

L silent.

Almond	Balk	Calm	Palm
Alms	Behalf	Chalk	Psalm
Auln	Calf	Could	Qualm
Balm	Calk	Folk	Salmon

N silent

Autumn	Condemn	Hymn	Solemn
Column			

P silent.

Corps	Pshaw	Ptolemy
Psalm	Psyche	Pneumonia
Pseudo	Pneumatic	Receipt

S silent.

Aisle	Island	Demesne	Puisne	Viscount
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U silent

Brogue	Guaranty	Guest	Prorogue
Colleague	Guerdon	Mosque	Vague
Guard	Guess	Plague	Rogue

UE silent.

Apologue	Decalogue	Epilogue	Pedagogue
Catalogue	Demagogue	Harangue	Prologue
	Dialogue		

W silent.

Answer	Wreath	Wrestle	Wright
Sword	Wreck	Wretched	Wring
Wrap	Wren	Wriggle	Wrinkle
Wreak	Wrench	Wrong	Wrist
			Write

XIV

THE POSSESSIVE S

To form the Possessive, the general rule is to add an apostrophe followed by the letter S ; but when a word already ends with an S, in the plural, an apostrophe alone is added. Thus, *man* becomes *man's*, and *men* becomes *men's*, but *cow* becomes *cow's*, and *cows* becomes *cows'*. We write *Coopers' Company's School* because there are many coopers and the word is in the plural : there is, however, only one company and it is in the singular. A word in the singular ending in S requires the apostrophe followed by the S : thus *ass* becomes *ass's*, while *asses* becomes *asses'*. For Christian names, the rule is to use the 'S when the name is modern, as *Charles's*, but not when it is Biblical or classical, as *Moses'*, *Socrates'*.

SECTION II

WORDS WHICH MAY CONFUSE

It must be clearly stated that the words grouped together below are not always sounded exactly alike, though most of them are.

✓ **Abel**—a man's name.

✓ **Able**—skilful.

✓ **Accidence**—the elements of grammar.

✓ **Accidents**—mistakes that happen by chance.

Acts—actions.

Axe—a chopper.

Adds—the act of adding.

Adze—a kind of axe.

Ail—to be ill.

Ale—a drink.

Air—the atmosphere.

Aire—river in Yorkshire.

Ayr—town in Scotland.

E'er—adv. ever.

Ere—adv. before.

Heir—one who inherits.

Aisle—part of a church.

Isle—an island.

All—everyone.

Awl—a tool.

Allowed—permitted.

Aloud—so as to be heard.

Altar—place of sacrifice.

Alter—to change.

Arc—part of a circle.

Ark—mentioned in the Bible.

Ascent—going up.

Assent—permission.

Assistance—help.

Assistants—people who help.

Ate—past tense of to eat.

Eight—the number.

Eyot—a small island.

Aught—anything.

Ought—needs, must.

Bail—surety. (*security*)

Bale—goods in a pack, etc.

Bait—used by anglers.

Bate—to stop or reduce.

Ball—a plaything.

Bawl—to shout.

Bare—naked.

Bear—an animal.

Bark—to make a noise, outside of a tree.

Barque—a small boat.

Baron—a nobleman.

Barren—unfruitful.

Base—despicable.

Bass—low musical notes.

Bay—a tree, a gulf.

Bey—a Turkish ruler.

Be—to exist.

Bee—an insect.

Beach—seashore.

Beech—a tree.

Bean—a vegetable, a seed.

Been—past partic. of verb to be.

Beat—to strike.

Beet—a vegetable.

Beau—a dandy.

Bow—a knot, an instrument with arrows.

Beer—a liquor.

Bier—a contrivance for carrying a corpse.

Berry—a wild fruit.

Bury—to inter.

Berth—a sleeping place.

Birth—something born.

- Better—improved.
 Bettor—one who bets.
 Bight—a bay.
 Bite—to seize with the teeth.
 Blew—did blow.
 Blue—a colour.
 Boar—an animal.
 Bore—a hollow, to bear.
 Board—a plank, food.
 Bored—pierced.
 Bold—brave.
 Bowled—out at cricket.
 Born—birth.
 Borne—carried.
 Bourne—a brook, a limit.
 Bough—a branch.
 Bow—to bend.
 Boy—a male child.
 Buoy—a floating mark at sea.
 Brake—a bush, did break, a wheel grip.
 Break—to knock into pieces.
 Brays—noise of a donkey.
 Braze—to solder.
 Breach—a breaking.
 Breech—the rear part of a gun.
 Bread—the staff of life.
 Bred—the bringing up.
 Breast—part of the body.
 Brest—a naval town in France.
 Brews—act of brewing.
 Bruise—to hurt and mark the flesh, etc.
 Bridal—relating to marriage.
 Bridle—a rein for horses, etc.
 Britain—England and Scotland.
 Briton—a native of Britain.
 Broach—to pierce.
 Brooch—an ornament of jewellery.
 But—except.
 Butt—a cask.

Buy—to purchase.

By—prep. near, with, etc.

Bye—as in good-bye.

Calendar—an almanac.

Calender—to give a finish to linen.

Candid—sincere.

Candied—preserved with sugar.

Cannon—a gun on wheels.

Canon—an office in the church.

Capital—chief.

Capitol—a temple at Rome.

Carat—weight of precious metals.

Carrot—a vegetable.

Cask—a tub.

Casque—a helmet.

Cast—to throw.

Caste—a class, distinction.

Cedar—a tree.

Ceder—one who yields.

Cede—to yield.

Seed—a part of a plant.

Ceiling—part of a room.

Sealing—wax, to seal.

Cell—a small room.

Sell—to effect a sale.

Cellar—an underground place.

Seller—one who sells.

Census—a numbering of the people.

Sensuous—pandering to a base taste.

Cent—a coin.

Scent—perfume.

Sent—to send.

Cereal—form of corn.

Serial—one of a set.

Cession—a giving up.

Session—a sitting of people.

Chace—hunting (not often used now).

Chase—to hunt.

Chagrin—vexation.

Shagreen—skin of a fish.

Check—to restrain.

Cheque—a money order.

Chews—to chew.

Choose—to select.

Choir—a number of singers.

Quire—twenty-four sheets.

Choler—anger.

Collar—a neck band.

Chord—musical notes ; geometrical term ; also
as vocal chords.

Cord—a piece of rope.

Cite—to quote.

Sight—the power of seeing.

Site—a situation or place.

Coarse—rough.

Course—a race.

Colonel—an officer.

Kernel—inside of a nut.

Complement—the full total.

Compliment—a civil act.

Concert—a performance.

Consort—a friend, one who consorts with.

Core—inner part of a fruit, etc.

Corps—a number of soldiers.

Council—an assembly.

Counsel—advice.

Coward—lacking in courage.

Cowherd—One who minds cows.

Creak—to make a sound.

Creek—an inlet of the sea.

Cue—a stick for playing billiards.

Kew—a suburb of London.

Currant—a fruit.

Current—a flow of water.

Cygnets—a young swan.


Signet—a seal.

Cymbal—a musical instrument

Symbol—a sign.

Dane—a northman.

Deign—to condescend.

- Day—twenty-four hours, etc.
Dey—a Moorish ruler.
Dear—pleasing ; expensive.
Deer—a stag.
Descent—a going down.
Dissent—to disagree.
Desert—a tract of sandy land.
Dessert—fruit at dinner.
Dew—moisture from the earth.
Due—something owing.
Die—to close one's life.
Dye—a colour, to change the colour.
Doe—a deer.
Dough—unbaked bread.
Does—pres. of did, and plural of doe.
Dose—a quantity.
Doze—to go to sleep.
Done—achieved.
Dun—a colour.
Dost—to do.
Dust—powdery material.
Draft—a bill for money.
Draught—a drink, a current of air.
Dual—where two things are concerned.
Duel—a combat.
Dyeing—act of colouring.
Dying—act of expiring.
Earn—to work for a living.
Urn—a vessel.
Elicit—to draw out.
Illicit—unlawful.
Eminent—noted.
Imminent—about to happen.
Ewe—a sheep.
Yew—a tree.
You—personal pronoun.
Exercise—work.
Exorcise—to cut out some evil part.
Eye—organ of sight.
I—personal pronoun.
- 

Fain—willingly.

Fane—a temple.

Feign—to pretend.

Faint—to swoon.

Feint—a pretence.

Fair—a market, etc.

Fare—payment to travel.

Farther—more remote.

Father—male parent.

Fate—destiny.

Fête—a festival.

Feat—a bold deed.

Feet—plural of foot.

Felloe—rim of a wheel.

Fellow—a friend, "chap."

Fir—a tree, etc.

Fur—a skin.

Firs—Trees.

Furs—skins of animals.

Furze—a bush.

Fisher—one who fishes.

Fissure—a crack.

Flea—an animal.

Flee—to run away.

Flew—past of fly.

Flue—a chimney.

Floe—an ice field.

Flow—to glide along.

Flour—corn powdered.

Flower—a blossom.

Fool—a silly person.

Full—filled.

Fort—a fortified place.

Forte—a strong point in one's character.

Forth—forward.

Fourth—position of four.

Foul—dirty.

Fowl—an animal.

Frays—quarrels.

Phrase—a part of a sentence.

- Frees—sets at liberty.
Freeze—to turn into ice.
Frieze—a cloth, architectural ornament.
Gait—a way of walking.
Gate—a door.//
Gamble—to bet.
Gambol—frolic.
Gild—to cover with gold.
Guild—a brotherhood.
Gilt—covered with gold.
Guilt—wicked nature.
Gnaw—to bite.
Nor—neither.
Gnu—an animal.
Knew—to know, past.
New—not old.
Grate—part of the fireplace.
Great—large.
Grater—a thing to scratch with.
Greater—larger.
Grease—fat.
Greece—a country.
Groan—to sigh pitifully.
Grown—past partic. of to grow.
Grocer—dealer in sugar, tea, etc.
Grosser—fatter.
Guessed—from “to guess.”
Guest—a visitor.
Hail—frozen rain.
Hale—healthy.
Hair—covering of the head, etc.
Hare—an animal.
Heir—one who inherits.
Hall—a large room.
Haul—to drag along.
Hart—a stag.
Heart—a part of the body.
Heal—to cure.
Heel—a part of the body.
He'll—he will, contracted.

Hear—to listen to.

Here—to do with places.

Heard—to hear, past.

Herd—a flock of animals.

Hew—to lop off.

Hue—a colour.

Hugh—a man's name.

Hide—to conceal, leather.

Hied—went in haste.

Hie—to hasten somewhere.

High—lofty.

Higher—more high.

Hire—wages, on hire system, etc.

Him—he in the objective.

Hymn—a church song.

Hoard—a secret hiding place.

Horde—a rough set of people.

Hole—an opening.

Whole—all of it.

Hour—sixty minutes.

Our—belonging to us.

I—myself.

Eye—organ of sight.

Idle—lazy.

Idol—a kind of image.

In—within.

Inn—a place for drinks, etc.

Incite—to urge to go.

Insight—seeing deeply on a matter.

Indict—to accuse.

Indite—to compose.

Ingenious—clever.

Ingenuous—open or frank in character.

Jam—a preserve.

Jamb—a support in architecture.

Joust—a tournament skirmish.

Just—fair, honest.

Key—opening for a lock.

Quay—a wharf.

- Knave—a rogue.
Nave—part of a church.
Knead—to work dough.
Need—necessity.
Knell—sound of bell at funerals.
Nell—girl's name.
Knew—past tense of know.
New—fresh.
Knight—A title.
Night—Evening.
Knot—a fastening in string, etc.
Not—a negative term.
Know—to be acquainted with.
No—none.
Knows—to know, present tense.
Nose—part of the face.
Lac—a gum, a number of rupees.
Lack—to want, need.
Lacks—needs.
Lax—loose.
Lade—to load.
Laid—placed.
Lain—to lie.
Lane—a road.
Lea—a meadow.
Lee—side opposite the wind.
Lead—a metal.
Led—conducted.
Leaf—foliage.
Lief—willingly.
Leak—to run out.
Leek—a vegetable.
Lessen—to diminish.
Lesson—a task at school.
Levee—a reception of state.
Levy—to raise money, men, etc.
Liar—a teller of untruths.
Lier—a person who lies down.
Limb—a portion of the body.
Limn—to paint.
Lympne—a town in Kent, pronounced Lim.

Lo—behold.

Low—not high.

Load—a heavy burden.

Lode—a vein in a mine.

Loan—a sum lent.

Lone—alone.

Loch—a Scotch lake.

Lock—fastening on a door.

Made—something constructed.

Maid—a young girl.

Mail—the post, armour. Daily Mail.

Male—a masculine person.

Main—chief thing.

Mane—hair of a horse.

Maize—Indian corn.

Maze—a puzzle, as Hampton Court Maze.

Manna—food for the Israelites.

Manner—method of acting.

Manor—a section of land in feudal times.

Mantel—front of a chimney.

Mantle—a cloak.

Mare—horse.

Mayor—a town official.

Marshal—a military officer.

Martial—warlike.

Mead—a meadow.

Meed—a reward.

Meat—flesh.

Meet—to come together.

Mete—to measure.

Medal—a decoration.

Meddle—to interfere.

Meddler—one who meddles.

Medlar—a fruit.

Metal—gold, iron, etc.

Mettle—spirit, courage.

Meter—a measurer.

Metre—a verse of poetry, etc.

Mews—stables.

Muse—the goddess of poetry.

Might—power.

Mite—a small coin.

Moat—a trench around a building.

Mote—a very small thing.

Mode—a manner.

Mowed—past tense of to mow.

Naught—of no worth.

Nought—nothing.

Nay—no.

Neigh—noise of a horse.

None—not one.

Nun—a woman in convent.

Oar—a pole for rowing.

O'er—short for over.

Ore—metal.

One—the number.

Won—to win.

Pail—vessel used in the scullery.

Pale—light in colour.

Pain—hurting feeling.

Pane—a piece of glass.

Pair—a couple.

Pare—to peel.

Pear—a fruit. //

Palate—roof of the mouth.

Palette—a thing on which to mix colours

Pallet—a small bed.

Pall—a covering put on coffin.

Paul—a man's name.

Pause—a stop.

Paws—animals' feet.

Peace—quiet, a treaty.

Piece—a portion.

Peak—summit of hill.

Pique—bad temper.

Peal—a ring of bells.

Peel—skin of things.

- Peer—a nobleman.
 Pier—a jetty.
 Plait—to twist or fold.
 Plate—a dinner table article.
 Pleas—pleadings.
 Please—to gratify.
 Plum—a fruit.
 Plumb—a leaden weight on a line.
 Pole—a long stick.
 Poll—voting at an election.
 Practice—an exercise. Noun.
 Practise—to make a habit of doing. Verb.
 Praise—to applaud.
 Prays—does pray.
 Pray—to beseech.
 Prey—to plunder.
 Presence—being present.
 Presents—gifts.
 Pries—to enquire into.
 Prize—a reward.
 Principal—chief, money.
 Principle—a truth, one's guiding influences.
 Quarts—multiples of two pints.
 Quartz—a mineral.
 Rain—water from clouds.
 Reign—to rule.
 Rein—part of harness. First syllable of
 Reindeer.
 Raise—to lift.
 Rays—beams of light.
 Raze—to level.
 Rap—a sharp blow.
 Wrap—to fold.
 Read—to spell out the words by name.
 Reed—a plant.
 Reck—to care for.
 Wreck—destruction.
 Reek—to steam.
 Wreak—revenge.
 Rest—repose.
 Wrest—to snatch from.

- Retch—to strain.
Wretch—a worthless person.
Rhyme—poetry.
Rime—hoar-frost.
Right—just, correct.
Rite—a ceremony.
Wright—a workman, i.e. wheelwright.
Write—to use a pen.
Road—a route.
Rode—to ride.
Rowed—past partic. of to row.
Roe—eggs of fish, a deer.
Row—to propel a boat, things in a line.
Rood—a measure of land.
Rude—impertinent.
Root—part of a plant.
Route—a road.
Rote—memory.
Wrote—to write.
Rung—to ring.
Wrung—to wring.
Rye—corn, town in Sussex.
Wry—crooked.
Sail—part of a vessel.
Sale—of goods.
Scene—an appearance.
Seen—to see.
Scilly—lands off Cornwall.
Silly—foolish.
Scion—a young shoot.
Sion—name of a place.
Sea—a sheet of salt water.
See—to perceive.
Seam—a join, a vein of coal.
Seem—to appear as.
Senior—older.
Signor—Italian for “Mr.”
Serf—a slave.
Surf—foam of sea.

Serge—a cloth.

Surge—the sea in motion.

Sew—to stitch with a needle.

So—thus.

Sow—to spread out seed.

Shear—to cut.

Sheer—steep.

Side—part of the body.

Sighed—to sigh.

Sighs—sobs.

Size—bulk, glue.

Sight—able to see.

Site—a position.

Sign—a mark.

Sine—a mathematical term.

Sleight—an artful thing done.

Slight—frail.

Sloe—a wild fruit.

Slow—not fast.

Soar—to rise up.

Sore—painful.

Soared—risen up.

Sword—a weapon.

Sold—to sell.

Soled—to repair boots.

Sole—part of foot, a fish.

Soul—a spirit.

Some—contrary to none.

Sum—a total worked out.

Sort—a kind.

Sought—to seek out.

Stake—a post.

Steak—a portion of meat.

Stationary—not moving.

Stationery—writing material.

Steal—to rob.

Steel—a metal.

Stile—a contrivance for getting over a fence.

Style—manner.

- Straight—not crooked.
Strait—a narrow way.
Succour—help.
Sucker—a young shoot.
Suite—a company, a set of furniture.
Sweet—sugary taste.
Tail—portion of an animal.
Tale—a story.
Tare—to tear.
Tear—to rip into pieces.
Taught—instructed.
Taut—tight.
Tea—a drink.
Tee—in golf.
Team—a set of horses pulling, etc.
Teem—to abound with.
Tear—water when crying.
Tier—a row, in a theatre, etc.
Tease—to annoy.
Tees—a river.
Their—belonging to.
There—in that place.
Threw—to throw.
Through—from one end to the other.
Throne—a chair on which the king is crowned.
Thrown—to throw.
Thyme—a herb.
Time—duration of a period.
Tide—movement of the sea.
Tied—fastened.
Tire—weary.
Tyre—rim of a wheel.
To—preposition, towards.
Too—adverb, more than sufficient.
Two—adj. numeral.
Toe—part of the foot.
Tow—hemp.
Told—to tell.
Tolled—sound of bells.

Ton—20 cwts.

Tun—a measure, four hogsheads.

Trait—a feature.

Tray—a dish.

Vain—proud.

Vane—a weathercock.

Vein—a blood vessel.

Vale—a dip between two hills.

Veil—a cover for the face.

Wails—lamentations.

Wales—a country.

Whales—animals living in the sea.

Wain—a waggon.

Wane—to decrease.

Waist—part of the body.

Waste—to use lavishly, a desolate spot.

Wait—to stop for.

Weight—heaviness.

Waive—to flutter in the air, to put aside one's wishes.

Wave—a bank of sea.

Way—a route.

Weigh—to test on scales.

Wey—a river.

Whey—part of milk.

Weak—not strong.

Week—seven days.

Weal—happiness.

Wheel—what a vehicle runs on.

Wean—to separate from.

Ween—to think.

Wear—a river.

Weir—an obstruction across a river.

Weather—state of the climate.

Whether—which of two.

Were—to be.

Where—in what position.

Wet—watery.

Whet—to sharpen.

- Whig—a political party.
Wig—head covering.
While—time.
Wile—a trick.
Whine—to moan.
Wine—a beverage.
Whist—a card game.
Wist—to know.
Whit—anything. Whitsun.
Wit—smart at words.
White—a colour.
Wight—a person, an island.
Whither—to what place.
Wither—to shrink.
Wood—a forest, timber.
Would—past tense.
Yoke—bondage, the coupling of oxen, etc.
Yolk—the yellow of egg.

SECTION III

A SPELLING COURSE

AFTER all is said and done, it is by actual contact with difficult words that the student will make rapid strides with his spelling. This being so, we have drawn up a Month's Course, consisting of a short section for each day. Each section comprises thirty words—just sufficient to fill up the time in the train while going home at night.

If the student will devote one short month to this easy course, he will derive what should be of incalculable benefit to him. Every day he ought to assimilate a section and, every now and again, the past sections should be revised. At the end of the month, he will feel very much safer when confronted with awkward passages.

Do not put off beginning until the first of next month. Begin to-day.

1ST DAY.

- Abattoir—One B and two Ts.
 Abbreviate—Two Bs.
 Aberration—One B and two Rs.
 Abeyance—Note the Y.
 Abhorred—Two Rs.
 Abridgment—No E after G.
 Abscess—SC together. But abcess, a medical term
 Absence—S alone ; compare *Ab'scess*.
 Absinth—No final E as in French.
 Abundance—ance not ence.
 Abysmal—From *Abyss* but only one S.
 Acacia—
 Academy—Not -amy.
 Accede—Beware comparison with *exceed*.
 Accelerate—Two Cs and one L.
 Accept—Beware comparison with *Except*.
 Access—Beware comparison with *Excess*.
 Accessary is a noun. Accessory an adj.
 Accessible—Not -able.
 Acclimatize—Not -ise.
 Accommodate—Very often wrongly spelt.
 Accompanist—Compare with following word.
 Accompanying—Note the Y.
 Accumulate—Two Cs.
 Ache—No K.
 Achieve—IE.
 Acknowledge and Acknowledgment.
 Acquaintance—Note CQ.
 Acquiesce—Note CQ and IESO.
 Acquire—Note CQ.

2ND DAY.

- Acre—No K.
 Actor—Not ER.
 Accumulate—Two Cs.
 Adapt (Fit, adjust, suit)—Adept (Skilled, skilful).
 Adhere—Not hear.
 Adjudgment—Not GE.
 Adjudicate—Not Aj. Silent D.
 Administrator—Not ER.
 Admissible—Not -able.
 Admission—No T.
 Adolescent—Note SC.
 Advantageous—Note GE.
 Advancement—Note the E.
 Adversary—Not -ory.
 Advertisement—S not Z.
 Advisable and Advising, but Advise.
 Advise, a verb, but Advice, a noun.
 Ægis—Not Egis.
 Aerate—Not Air.
 Aerial—Not Air.
 Afraid—Not two Fs.
 Agency—No T although Agent.
 Agglomeration—Two Gs.
 Aggrandizement—Two Gs and IZE.
 Aggravate—Not GER.
 Aggregate—Two Gs.
 Aggrieve—IE.
 Aghast—H.
 Agnostic—No final K.
 Agnosticism—CIS.

3RD DAY.

- Agonize—Not-ise.
 Agreeable—Two Es usually, but Agreeable is allowed.
 Agriculturist—
 Aigrette—Not commencing with E. There is also
 Egret.
 Aisle (part of a church)—Not Isle.
 Aitch-bone—
 Albatross—Two Ss.
 Alcohol—
 Aliases—Not -asses.
 Alien—Not -ian.
 Alimentary—One L.
 Alkali—No C.
 Allay—Two Ls.
 Allege—Not -ledge.
 Allegiance—Not -ieance.
 Alleviate—Two Ls.
 Alligator—Not -le-.
 Alliteration—Two Ls.
 Allotment—Two Ls and one T.
 Allotted—Two Ls and two Ts.
 All Right—Two words, not Alright.
 All Together—There is also Altogether, differing
 slightly in meaning.
 Allurement—Mind the middle E.
 Alluring—No middle E.
 All Ways—But Always, an adv.
 Almanac and Almanack—Both correct.
 Almighty—One L.
 Almost—Not All-.
 Alms (charity) but Arms (weapons).

4TH DAY.

- Aloes—Plural of Aloe.
Aloud (loud sound) but Allowed (permitted).
Already (adv. before) but All ready (prepared).
Altar (church term) but Alter (to change).
Amateur—Not -ture.
Ambiguous—Not -gi-.
Ameliorate—
Amenable—Not -ible.
Amiable—Not Aim-.
Ammonia—Two Ms.
Amnesty—Not -ie.
Amok (run amok)—Not -muck.
Amphibious—No Y.
Amphitheatre—Not -ter.
Amplify—No E.
Amusement—Note the -use-.
Amusing—Note the -usi-.
Anæmia—Note the diphthong.
Analogous—
Analyse—Not -ise.
Analyst—
Ancestor—Note the C.
Ancient—Note the CI.
Angel (heavenly spirit) but Angle (corner).
Anglicize—Not -ise.
Aniline—No Y.
Ankle—No C.
Annihilate—Two Ns and H.
Anniversary—Two Ns and -ary.
Annual (yearly) but Annul (to make void).

5TH DAY.

- Anoint—One N.
 Anomalous—One N.
 Anonymous—Y not I.
 Answer—Do not omit the W.
 Antarctic—Beware of omitting middle C.
 Antecedent—Ante- not anti- and -ent.
 Antediluvian—Not Anti- and not -luve-.
 Anthracite—Not O following R.
 Anticipate—Not Ante-.
 Antiquarian—Not Ante-.
 Anxiety—
 Apartment—No E after T and one P only.
 Apologise—LO.
 Apostle—TLE.
 Apostrophe—No final Y.
 Apothecary—THE not THO.
 Appalling—No U.
 Appear—Two Ps.
 Appetize and Appetizing.
 Appointment—No E after T.
 Appreciate—
 Apprentice—Not -iss.
 Approach—OACH.
 Aquarellist—No C.
 Aquarium—No C.
 Arabesque—Note the -que.
 Arable—One R.
 Arc (in geometry) but Ark (in Bible).
 Archaic—No K.
 Archangel—No K.

6TH DAY.

- Arctic—Do not omit first C.
Area (surface) but Aria (music).
Aristocracy—Not -sy.
Arithmetician—Not -tian.
Armistice—Not -iss or -ise.
Arraign—Two Rs.
Arsenic—No final K.
Artesian—No Z.
Artful—One L.
Asbestos—Not -us.
Ascendance—Not -ence.
Ascent (going up) but Assent (to agree with).
Ascertain—Not two Ss.
Askew—
Asphalt—Not Ash-.
Asphyxia—
Assailant but Assailling and Assailed.
Assassin—SS twice.
Assembly—Not -bley.
Assessor—Four Ss.
Assiduous—
Assize—Not -ise.
Asterisk—Not -isc.
Asthma—
Ate—(vb. to eat).
Atmosphere—
Attaché (case)—Two Ts.
Attack—
Attempt—Do not omit the P.
Attendant—Not -ent.

7TH DAY.

- Attic—No K.
 Aught (anything) but Ought (should).
 Awkward—Not Auk-.
 Austere—Not -eer.
 Authentic—Not -ick.
 Authorize—No S.
 Autumn—Mind the N.
 Auxiliary—One L.
 Available—One L.
 Avalanche—Mind the E.
 Avaricious—Not -ra- and no t.
 Avenue—Not Avenew.
 Aver but Averred and Averring.
 Aversion—No D. Adversion has a different meaning.
 Avertible—Not -able.
 Avoirdupois—
 Awe and Aweing and Awesome.
 Awe but Awful and Awfully.
 Awning—Not commencing with O.
 Awry—Not -rye.
 Axe—Do not omit final E.
 Axle—Not -el.
 Azalea—Not -ia.
 Bachelor—Not Batch-.
 Badger—Mind the DG.
 Baggage—Not -idge.
 Bail (going security) but Bale (bundle).
 Bailiff—Mind the first I. See Bail.
 Balloon—Two Ls and two Os.
 Ballot—One T and no E. But Ballet, a dance.

8TH DAY.

- Baluster and Balustrade ; also Banister—one N.
Banjo—Plural Banjoes.
Bankruptcy—Do not omit the T.
Banns (marriage)—Two Ns. Ban has a different meaning.
Banquet, Banqueting and Banqueter.
Baptism but Baptize and Baptizing.
Bark (of a dog) but Barque (a ship).
Barometer—Not -metre.
Baron (a title) and Barren (without fruit).
Barrister—Two Rs.
Basin—Not -on.
Basinet—Not Bassinette.
Battalion—Two Ts and one L.
Bauble (a trifling thing)—Not -aw.
Bawl (to shout)—
Bazaar—Two As.
Beach (by the sea) but Beech (a tree).
Bean (Haricot bean, etc.) but Been (verb to be).
Bear (an animal) but Bare (unclothed).
Beat (to strike) but Beet (beetroot).
Beauteous—Not -ious.
Beer (a drink) but Bier (funeral requisite).
Beginning—Two Ns.
Behaviour—
Belief, Believe but Receive. Use VE for verbs.
Benefactor—Not Beni-.
Benefit and Benefiting.
Benign—Do not drop the G.
Benumb—Do not omit the B.

9TH DAY

- Benzene and Benzol.
 Bequeath—No final E.
 Bereavement—
 Berth (ship, job) but Birth (born).
 Besiege—I before E.
 Biannual (twice in one year) but Biennial (once in two years).
 Biceps—no Y.
 Bicycle—Not By-.
 Bight (a bay) but Bite (a thing bitten).
 Bijouterie.
 Bilious—One L.
 Billiards—Two Ls. In some cases, the final S is not used.
 Biscuit—Note the -cuit.
 Bizarre—Two Rs.
 Blame, Blameable, but blaming (no E).
 Blanc-mange.
 Blissful—Two Ss.
 Blizzard—Two Zs.
 Bloater—Do not omit the A.
 Blouse (to wear) but Blowzy (ugly).
 Bludgeon—GE.
 Blue and Blueing but Bluish (no E).
 Boatswain—Pronounced Bosun.
 Booth—No E.
 Bore (to make a hole) but Boar (animal).
 Bored (a hole made) but Board (piece of wood).
 Born (affecting birth) but Borne (carried along).
 Borough (a town) but Burrow (of a rabbit, etc.).
 Bosom—No U.
 Bough (of a tree) but Bow (to bend).

10TH DAY.

- Boulder (a large rock) but Bolder (more bold).
 Boundary—Not -ery.
 Bounteous—
 Bouquet—Not -ay.
 Boy (a child) but Buoy (a floating mark).
 Braggart—No final D.
 Braise (cookery) but Braze (to solder).
 Brake (on wheels) but Break (to smash).
 Bread (loaf) but Bred (to raise up).
 Brethren—Not -eren.
 Bridal (wedding) but Bridle (harness).
 Brilliance—Note -illi-.
 Britannia—One T.
 Briton (a person) but Great Britain.
 Broach (to pierce) but Brooch (ornament).
 Broccoli—
 Bronchitis—No K.
 Bruise but Bruising.
 Buffalo but Buffaloes.
 Bulletin—
 Burlesque—Not -esk.
 Bury (to place in ground) but Berry (a fruit).
 Bus, Buses—Not Buss and Busses.
 Business—
 Busy—
 Buy (to purchase) but By (close to) and Bye (in cricket).
 By and by—also By the By.
 Bye (Good-Bye).
 By-Law—Not Bye-Law.
 Cabbage—No I.

I ITH DAY.

- Cablegram—Not -gramme.
 Calcareous—Not -ious.
 Calendar (an almanac) but Calender (to treat fabrics).
 Calyx (a part of a flower).
 Campaign—No final E.
 Camphor—
 Cancel but Cancelled.
 Canvas (cloth) but Canvass (to scrutinize).
 Caoutchouc—
 Capstan—
 Carcass—Not -case.
 Career—Not -ier.
 Cargo and Cargoes.
 Caricature—
 Carpet, Carpeted, Carpeting.
 Carriage—Two Rs.
 Cashier—Not -eer.
 Caste (a class of people) but Cast (to throw).
 Casuist—
 Cataclysm—
 Catalepsy—
 Catalogue but Cataloguing.
 Catarrh—Two Rs.
 Catechism but Catechize.
 Caterpillar—
 Cauliflower—Au, not Aw.
 Cedilla—Not Sed-.
 Ceiling (top of room) but Sealing (wax).
 Celery—Not Sel-.
 Cellar (place for coals) but Seller (one who sells).

12TH DAY.

- Cemetery—Note the E's.
 Cent (a coin) but Scent (perfume) and Sent (to send).
 Centennary—
 Centre—Not -er but Centering and Centered permissible.
 Centurion—Not -an.
 Ceremonious—Not -eous.
 Chagrin (grief) but Shagreen (leather).
 Chameleon—Do not drop the H.
 Changeable—Do not drop middle E.
 Channel—One L.
 Chaos—Pronounced Kaos.
 Characteristically—Two Ls.
 Chasm—
 Check (to hinder) but Cheque (on a bank).
 Chestnut—Do not omit middle T.
 Chief—I before E.
 Chilblain—Not two Ls as in Chill.
 Chilliness—Two Ls.
 Chimney and Chimneys—Not -ies.
 Chlorophyll—Two Ls.
 Choir (a band of singers) but Quire (of paper).
 Choler (anger) but Collar (neck-wear).
 Choose (present) but Chose (past).
 Chord (in geometry or music) but Cord (rope).
 Chorus, Choruses—
 Chrysanthemum—
 Chute (water-chute) but Shoot (with a gun).
 Chutney—Do not omit the E.
 Cicatrix (sing.) but Cicatrices (plu.).
 Cinchona—

13TH DAY.

Cinematograph or Kinematograph—Either correct.

Cinque Ports—Not the French, cinq.

Cipher—No Y is generally used, but cypher is allowed.

Circuit—Not -cit.

Circumference—Not -ance.

Civilize—but “civilise” often used.

Clairvoyance—

Clarinet—Not -onet.

Clean, Cleanly, Cleanliness—

Clerestory—Pronounced “clear-story.”

Cloth (material) but Clothier (man who makes clothes). Also Clothe, to dress.

Clue—Not -ew. The nautical word clew is quite distinct.

Coarse (unrefined) but Course (dinners) and Corse (corpse).

Coax—

Cochineal—

Cocoa—But Coco is frequently used for the tree.

Coerce—No S.

Coffee—Two Fs and two Es.

Coiffeur (hairdresser) but Coiffure (head-dress).

Colander—Not Cu-.

Collaboration—No U.

Collectable—No I.

College—No D.

Colonize, Colonization, etc.—No S.

Coloration—Not Colour-.

Colour—Do not omit the U.

Column—MN.

Comedian—Not EN.

Comma (a point ,) but Coma (insensible).

Commandeer—Two Ms and two Es.

14TH DAY.

- Commensurate—Two Ms.
Commerce—Two Ms and one C.
Commiserate—
Commissariat—Not -eriat.
Commissionaire—
Commit but Committing.
Committee—Often spelt wrongly.
Compass—One M and two Ss.
Compete—Not -peat.
Complacence—Not -sence.
Complement (which completes) but compliment (to
praise).
Complexion—Not CT.
Comprehension—
Comptroller—Mind the P. Also spelt Controller.
Conceive—E before I.
Concert (music perf.) but Consort (Prince Consort).
Conchology—
Concrete—Not -et.
Concur but Concurred and Concurrence.
Condemn—MN.
Condescend—
Conductor—Not -er.
Confectionery—Not -ary.
Confederacy—Not -asy.
Conference—Not -ance.
Confer but Conferred and Conferring.
Confessor—OR.
Confidence—Not -ance.
Congeal—
Conjugal—Do not mix the J and G.

15TH DAY.

Conjuror.
 Connect but Connexion.
 Connoisseur—
 Conscience—Note the SC.
 Conscientious—Note the -tious.
 Consequential.
 Consistory—Not -ery.
 Consols (Govt. security) but Consuls (Govt. officials).
 Conspicuous—CU.
 Contagion—
 Contemporaneous.
 Contempt, Contemptible, Contemptuous.
 Contentious—Note the T.
 Contrariety—
 Contumelious—Not -eous.
 Convalescence—SC.
 Conveyance—Note -vey-.
 Convulsions—
 Corduroy—Not -eroy.
 Co-respondent (divorce) but Correspondent (writing).
 Corroborate—Two Rs and -bor-.
 Corruptible—TI not TA.
 Cortège—
 Costumer is correct but Costumier more usual.
 Cough—
 Council (group of people) but Counsel (advice).
 Councillor (member) but Counsellor (adviser).
 Counterfeit—
 Courageous—GE.
 Courteous—Not Curt-.

16TH DAY.

- Cowardice—Not -iss.
Coxswain—Pronounced Koks'n.
Credible—Note the I.
Creosote—Not -Crea.
Cretonne—Two Ns.
Crevasse—Not -isse.
Crewel (embroidery) but Cruel (without pity).
Criticism—No Ss.
Crucifixion—X not CT.
Cuckoo—Two Os.
Cucumber—
Culinary—Not -ery.
Cupboard—Not BB.
Cure but Curable.
Current (a flow) but Currant (a fruit).
Cursory—Not -ary.
Curtsey (a bow) but Courtesy (polite).
Cyclamen—
Cyclopædia—Now often spelt Cyclopedias.
Cypress (a tree) but Cyprus (the island).
Czar or Tsar, equally correct.
Daffodil—Not two Ls.
Dahlia—
Damage and Damaging.
Decadence—Not -ance.
Decease and Deceased—Disease has a different meaning.
Decent (proper) but Dissent (not to agree).
Deciduous—U.
Decrepit—Not final D.
Deer (stag) but Dear (darling or expensive).

17TH DAY

- Defence—Not -se.
 Defendant—ANT.
 Defensible—IBLE.
 Deferred—Two Rs.
 Deficit—Not Dif-.
 Defying—YI.
 Deign—GN.
 Deleterious—
 Demeanour—Not -or.
 Demur but Demurred, Demurring.
 Dénouement—Preserve the accent.
 Dentifrice—Not Dentrifice.
 Dependable—
 Dependant (noun) but Dependent (adj.).
 Depreciatory—Deprecatory is distinct word.
 Depth—Not Dephth.
 Descendant—
 Desert (sandy place) but Dessert (fruit).
 Desiccate—Not Dessicate.
 Despatch or Dispatch—The former is used as a verb, the latter as a noun. An officer would despatch a soldier with a dispatch.
 Despondent—Not -ant.
 Deteriorate—
 Deter but Deterring.
 Develop—
 Dexterous—TER.
 Diaphanous—Not -phen-
 Diarrhœa—Two Rs.
 Diary (journal) but Dairy (milk shop).
 Dictionary—Not -ery.
 Die (to die, expire) but Dye (to change colour).

18TH DAY.

- Dietetics—
 Diligence—Not -ance.
 Dimension—Not -tion.
 Dinghy (a boat) distinguish from Dingy (not fresh).
 Diocese—
 Diphtheria—PHTH.
 Diphthong—PHTH.
 Disagreeable—Two Es.
 Disastrous—
 Disciplinarian—
 Discouragement—Do not drop the E.
 Dishevelled—
 Disinfectant—Not -ent.
 Dismissible—Not -able.
 Disobedient—
 Disparagement—
 Dispensary—Not -ery.
 Dissatisfy—Mind the Ss.
 Dissertation—Not SC.
 Doggerel—Two Gs.
 Doily—Usually so spelt, but doily is allowable.
 Domesticity—
 Draft (sketch, note of money) but Draught (current of air, etc.). Draughts is a game.
 Dry but Drier, though Dryly.
 Duel (a fight) but Duál (two).
 Dungeon—GE.
 Dyeing (to change colour).
 Dynamo and Dynamos.
 Dyspepsia—DY.
 Eccentricity—Not Ex-.

19TH DAY.

- Ecclesiastical—
 Ecstasy—Not Extacy.
 Eczema—
 Effervesce—
 Effloresce and Efflorescence—
 Egoism—SM.
 Egregious—Not -eous.
 Eleemosynary—
 Elicit (to find out) but Illicit (not lawful).
 Elizabethan—Not -ean.
 Embarrass—Two Rs and two Ss.
 Enamel but Enamelling.
 Enemy—Not two Ns.
 Engagement—Not GM.
 Enlarge and Enlargement—
 Enrol but enrolling.
 Enticing—
 Entirety—Not -iety.
 Envelop, Enveloped, Enveloping—Envelope has a
 different meaning.
 Envyng—VY.
 Equanimity—Not -qui-.
 Equivocator—Not -er.
 Erysipelas—
 Escapement—PE.
 Eschew—
 Escutcheon—Note the E.
 Estrangement—GE.
 Etymology—Y.
 Eunuch—UNY.
 Euphemism—Not Euphu-.

20TH DAY.

- Euphony—Euphonium, musical instrument.
 Evanescent—Mind the C.
 Evaporate—Not -pour-.
 Ewe (sheep) but Yew (tree) and You (pers. pron.).
 Exacerbation—Not Exascer-.
 Exaggerate—Two Gs.
 Excel but Excelled and Excellent.
 Exchangeable—GE.
 Excitement—Do not omit the C.
 Excrescence—SC.
 Exemplary—Not Examp-.
 Exhaust—Do not omit the H.
 Exhilarate—Not -ler-.
 Exhort—Do not omit the H.
 Exigant—GE.
 Exonerate—Not Exhon-.
 Expedient—Not -ant.
 Expugn—Preserve the G. Expunge, to rub out.
 Extemporaneous—
 Extemporization—Z.
 Eyeing—EI.
 Fallible—Not LAB.
 Familiar—ILI.
 Farcical—Not -sic.
 Farther (far compared) but Father (parent).
 Fascinate—Do not omit the S.
 Fashion—
 Feat (exploit) but Feet (limbs).
 Febrile—
 Feint (strategy) but Faint (to be overcome).

21ST DAY.

- Fertilize**—Not -ise.
Feuilleton—Note the -ille-.
Fever—No A.
Fictitious—Not -cious.
Fidgety, Fidgeting and Fidgeted.
Filletted—Two Ls.
Fissure—No H.
Flaccid—Not Flax-.
Flannelette—Two Ns, one L and two Ts.
Flea (insect) but **Flee** (to run away).
Fleur-de-lis—Not lys.
Flexible—I not A.
Floe (ice floe) but **flow** (running).
Florescence—SC.
Flotsam and Jetsam—Sam and Som.
Flour (powdered wheat) but **Flower** (blossom).
Fluctuating—
Foal—Not fole.
Forecastle—Pronounced "Fo'c'sle."
Focus, Focused, Focusing.
Forcible—I not A.
Fore (in front) but **For** (prep.) and **Four** (numeral).
Foreboding—Note the E.
Forfeit—Not Fore-.
Forgather—Not Fore-.
Forgive but **Forgiving** and **Forgivable.**
Forth (forward) but **Fourth** (numeral).
Fortieth—
Fossilize—Not -se.
Foul (bad) but **Fowl** (poultry).

22ND DAY

Frolicsome—no K.

Frontispiece—

Fulfil but Fulfilled and Fulfilling.

Furlough—not -low.

Fusilier—one L.

Gage (greengage) but Gauge (a measure).

Gaiety—AIE.

Galloping—Two Ls and one P.

Gambol but Gambolled and Gambolling. Gamble, to risk.

Garage—One R.

Gaseous—EOUS.

Gasoline—

Gastronomic—

Gate (fence door) but Gait (a walk).

Gauge but Gauging.

Gherkin—H.

Ghetto—H.

Giraffe—Two Fs and an E.

Give but Giveable, Giving?

Glimpse—P.

Glisten—

Glue but Glutinous.

Gnash—G.

Gnat—G.

Gnu—G.

Goal—Not Gaol.

Goitre—Not -er.

Gondolier—Not -eer.

Good-bye—Not by. An abbreviation of "God be with ye"—hence the final E.

Gooseberry—Do not omit first E.

23RD DAY.

Gorgeous—GE.
 Gourmand—H.
 Government—
 Grammar—Not -er.
 Gramophone—Not -ma-.
 Grate (fireplace) but Great (important).
 Gratuitous—Not -us.
 Gravy—Not -ey.
 Grease (fat) but Greece (country).
 Greedy and Greediness—Not -ea.
 Grief—I before E.
 Groan (moan) but Grown (to grow).
 Groin (part of body) but Groyne (breakwater).
 Grotesque—Not -esk.
 Grudge but grudging.
 Guarantee—Not -tea.
 Gudgeon—GE.
 Guillotine—Two Ls.
 Guinea—Take care of the U and A.
 Gullible—I.
 Gymkhana —
 Habiliment—Not -le-.
 Hæmorrhage—Mind the second H.
 Hail (frozen rain and to greet) but Hale (healthy).
 Half (adj.) but Halve (verb).
 Handful has plural Handfuls, or Hands full.
 Handkerchief.
 Handsome—D.
 Happy but Happiness.

24TH DAY.

- Harlequin—No final E.
 Hart (stag) but Heart (part of body).
 Havoc—no final K.
 Hazard—One Z.
 Healthy, Healthiness, Healthily.
 Heard (past part. of hear) but Herd (of cattle).
 Height, although connected with High.
 Heinous—Not Hey-. Heineous is a common error.
 Heir (an inheritor) but Hair (on head).
 Heterogeneous—Note the -er.
 Hippopotamus—Two Ps.
 Hoarse (voice) but Horse (animal).
 Hoe and Hoeing.
 Holm-oak—Not Home. It means "Ivy-oak," from the peculiar leaf.
 Homœopathy—Not Homeo-.
 Hooping Cough, allowable for Whooping Cough.
 Hope but hoping.
 Humour but Humorist and Humorous.
 Hyacinth—No final E.
 Hydrangea—H.
 Hypercritical—Not Hypo-.
 Hypochondria—Not Hyper-.
 Hypocrite—Note final E.
 Ichneumon—Not -men.
 Icicle—not Icycle.
 Idiosyncrasy—Note the Ss and C.
 Igneous—E.
 Ignominious—Not -eous.
 Ignoramus—U not I.
 Illegible—Not -able.

25TH DAY.

- Illustrator—Not -er.
 Imminent (when meaning "impending").
 Immensely—No C.
 Immovable—No middle E.
 Impeccable—Not -ible.
 Incandescent—C.
 Inconceivable—E before I.
 Incongruous—Not -gruus.
 Incorporeal—Not -ial.
 Incur but Incurred.
 Independent—Not -ant.
 Indict—Pronounced "indite."
 Indispensable—Mind the I and A.
 Indubitable—Not -ible.
 Inexhaustible—Mind the H.
 Inflammatory—A not I.
 Ingenuous (open) not to be confused with In-
 genious (brainy or tricky).
 Innocuous—UOU.
 Instalment—No E after L.
 Insurrection—Two Rs and no X.
 Intelligible—Not -able.
 Intercede—C.
 Interpret—No final E.
 Interregnum—Two Rs.
 Intransigent.
 Inveigle—E before I.
 Iodoform—Not Ioder-."
 Ipecacuanha—
 Iridescent—Mind the vowels.
 Irascible—SC.

26TH DAY.

- Irreconcilable—
 Irrelevancy—
 Irreparable—
 Irretrievable—
 Isosceles—Note the SC.
 Jewellery, also Jewelry.
 Judgment—Not -ge-.
 Kaleidoscope—
 Kleptomania—K not C.
 Labour but Laborious.
 Laburnum—Not -am.
 Labyrinth—Y.
 Lackadaisical—
 Laryngitis—from Larynx.
 Laudanum—Not Lod-.
 Legibility—Three Is.
 Leguminous—Not -eous.
 Leisure—Not Les-.
 Lettuce—Not -ice.
 Librarian—Do not omit -ra.
 Licence or License, according to meaning.
 Lieutenant—Pronounced "Left-Tenant."
 Lilac—No final K.
 Lineament (features) distinguish from Liniment
 (lotion).
 Linoleum—OLE.
 Liquefy—E.
 Liqueur—UEU. Liquor has a different meaning.
 Loath (reluctant) but Loathe (offensive). The old
 form, Loth for Loath, is seldom used.
 Lodge but lodging and lodgment.
 Loquacious—QUA.

27TH DAY.

Lorgnette—G.
 Love but Lovable and Loving.
 Lozenge—Not -inge.
 Luncheon—E.
 Luxurious—Not -eous.
 Mackerel—Note the -er.
 Maelstrom—
 Mahogany—H.
 Maisonette—AI.
 Maize—AI.
 Majolica—J sounded like Y.
 Malfeasance—Note -ance.
 Malign—G.
 Malleable—EA.
 Manage, Management and Manageable.
 Mandolin—No final E.
 Manceuvre—-œuvre.
 Mantelpiece—Not Mantle-.
 Margarine—Not -ger-.
 Marjoram—Not -um.
 Marriage—IA.
 Massacre—Not -er.
 Mellifluous—Not one L.
 Memento and Mementoes.
 Memorandum—Plural, Memoranda.
 Memorize—No S.
 Mendacity (lying) but Mendicity (begging).
 Methyated—Y.
 Mettle (spirited) but Metal (dug from ground).
 Michaelmas—AE.

28TH DAY.

- Miniature—IA.
 Mischievous—IEV. Mischievous is a common error.
 Mistletoe—TLE.
 Mnemonics—A favourite "trap" in examinations.
 Mortgage—Do not omit the T.
 Mosquito—No final E.
 Move but Movable.
 Murmur—
 Muscle (of body) but Mussel (a shell-fish).
 Naive—AI. Nave has a different meaning, so also has knave.
 Naphtha—PHTH.
 Nasturtium—Not -ian.
 Negligible—
 Negotiate—Correct, but modern spelling substitutes T for C.
 Negro, Negroes—
 Neurasthenia—
 Nitre—Not -er.
 Notice and Noticeable—
 Numismatic—
 Obedient—I before E.
 Oboe—Final E.
 Obsequious.
 Œsophagus—Not Æ.
 Omit and Omitting—One M.
 Opalescent—SC.
 Ophthalmic—PHTH.
 Opposite—Not -sight.
 Opprobrium—Two Ps.
 Ornithology.
 Oscillate—SC.

29TH DAY.

Ostensible—Not -able.

Outrageous—GE.

Overrate—Two Rs.

Overwhelm—H.

Pair (two) but **Pare** (to cut the rind) and **Pear** (a fruit).

Palæography—Note the diphthong.

Palliasse—Two Ps and two Ss.

Pamphlet—Not Pham-.

Parallel—Two Ls and one L.

Parliament—IA.

Pavilion—Not two Ls.

Peaceable—EA.

Perennial—Not -ann-.

Permanency—Note -ency.

Perspicacious. **Perspicuous** is distinct word.

Perturb—Not Pur-.

Petroleum—not -ium.

Pitying—YI.

Posthumous—H.

Potato—Plural is **Potatoes**.

Profit but **Profiting**.

Promiscuous—UOU.

Prove but **Provable** and **Proving**.

Puerperal—

Puncheon—EO.

Punctilious—Not -eous.

Pyjamas—YJ.

Quarrel but **Quarrelling** and **Quarrelsome**.

Raiment—AI.

Rancorous—

30TH DAY.

- Rarefy—Not -ify.
 Raspberry—P.
 Rate and Rateable but Rating.
 Realize—Not S.
 Receipt—E before I.
 Recipe—
 Reciprocal—No S.
 Reconnoitre—OI.
 Recur but Recurred and Recurring.
 Reindeer—Not Rain-.
 Relieve—I before E.
 Reminiscent—SC.
 Replacable—
 Rescind—SC.
 Responsible—I not A.
 Restaurant—AU.
 Retrieve—I before E.
 Reversible—Not -able.
 Rheumatism—HEU.
 Rhododendron—Not -derden-.
 Ridiculous—Not Re-.
 Riveting—Not two Ts.
 Rumour—OU.
 Sacrilegious—Not -li-.
 Saleable—EA.
 Sanctimonious—Not -eous.
 Saponaceous—Not -ious.
 Sarcophagus—Not -hogus.
 Sarsaparilla—
 Schottische—ISC.

31ST DAY.

Shoeing—OEI.
 Simultaneous—EOU.
 Spinach—Not -age.
 Spontaneous—EOU.
 Stationary (still) but Stationery (paper articles).
 Statistics—
 Subpœna—Æ.
 Succumb—
 Tenement—Not Tena-.
 Theatre—Not -er.
 Therapeutics—EU.
 Thousandth—Do not omit the D.
 Threatening—Not TN.
 Tragedian—Tregedienne is a female form.
 Transferable—Not -fereable.
 Twelfth—F.
 Ubiquitous—
 Vermilion—One L.
 Viscount—Do not omit the S, although not sounded.
 Wagon or Waggon, either correct.
 Waive (to go by default) but Wave (of the sea).
 Way (route) but Weigh (with scales) and Whey
 (curds and whey).
 Whisky—Not -ey.
 Whortleberry—H.
 Wistaria—Not -teria.
 Woollen—Two Os and two Ls.
 Worship but Worshipper and Worshipping.
 Yacht—
 Yield—Not -ei-.
 Zymotic.

SECTION IV

I

PROPER NAMES WITH DIFFICULT SPELLINGS

THESE should only be learnt when the Month's Course, given previously, has been thoroughly mastered.

Aaron	Bordighera
Abyssinia	Bosphorus
Ægean Sea	Brobdingnag
Aladdin	Byzantine
Alsace-Lorraine	Caen (Town in France)
Andromache	Caerphilly (Town in Wales)
Angostura	Caicos (West Indies)
Ann Boleyn	Candlemas
Anne (Queen)	Caribbean Sea
Apennines	Carlisle (Cumberland)
Apocrypha	Carlyle (Thomas)
Ashanti	Carthusian (Monks)
Austria-Hungary	Chamonix
Aylesbury	Champs Elysées
Bædeker (Guides)	Chili
Balearic Islands	Chiswick
Balliol College	Cincinnati
Baluchistan	Cingalese (Ceylon people)
Barbados	Cinque Ports
Beethoven	Coliseum
Beirut (Town in Syria)	Colossus of Rhodes
Bernhardt (Sarah)	Cordillera
Blenheim	Corunna
Bonaparte (Napoleon)	

Coverley (Sir Roger de)		Galileo
Croesus		Gethsemane
Cruikshank (Artist)		Ghent (Belgian town)
Crusoe (Robinson)		Ghetto (Jewish)
Curaçao		Gil Blas
Czecho-Slavokia		Goethe (Composer of Faust)
Dardenelles		Greenwich
Darjeeling		Guadeloupe
Delhi		Guernsey
De Quincey (Author)		Haarlem
Descartes		Haiti (Island in W. Ind.)
Dinan (Brittany)		Hallow-e'en
Dinant (Belgium)		Hawaii (Sandwich Is.)
Dinard (Brittany)		Haydn (Musician)
Dionysius (K. of Syracuse)		Hengist and Horsa
Disraeli		Himalayas
Domesday Book		Hohenzollerns
Don Quixote		Honolulu (Hawaii Is.)
Eiffel Tower		Ilfracombe
Eikon Basilik		Israel
Eisteddfod		Jacobean
El Dorado		Johnson (Dr. Samuel)
Elzevir		Jonson (Rare Ben)
Enniskillen		Jungfrau (Mt. in Switz.)
Epernay		Kandahar
Encyclopædia Britan- nica		Khiber Pass
Epicurean		Koh-i-noor (Jewel)
Etna		Koran (Mohamm. Bible)
Eucharist		Korea
Excalibur		Kut-el-Amara (on Tigris)
Fahrenheit		Labuan
Faroe Islands		Levden
Fernando Po (W. African Isl.)		Lilliput
Fiji		Lorelei
Fontainebleau (French forest)		Machiavelli
Fuji Yama		Magdalen College (Ox- ford)
		Magdalene College (Camb.)

Maggiore (Lake)	Pennsylvania
Magna Charta	Peru
Malacca	Perugia (Italy)
Magyar	Philippine Islands
Manx (People of I. of Man)	Pompeii
Maoris (Natives of N.Z.)	Poseidon
Marathon	Prometheus
Marseilles	Ptolemy
Massachusetts	Punjab
Maundy	Pyrenees
Medici	Pytchley Hunt
Menai Strait	Pythagoras
Mendelssohn	Quebec
Mephistopheles	Quinquagesima Sunday
Mesopotamia	Rasselas
Michaelmas	Renaissance
Mississippi	Rheims or Reims
Missouri	Rhodesia
Mohammed or Mahomet	Richelieu
Mont Blanc	Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)
Montenegro	Röntgen rays
Moravia	Roosevelt (Theodore)
Mozart	Rouen (France)
Munich	Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam
Nippon (Japan)	Rubens (Paul—painter)
Nobel (Prize)	Runnimeade
Nova Scotia	Salisbury
Ober Ammergau (Passion Play)	Samoa
Ohio	San Francisco
Oklahoma	Santa Claus
Olympia	Santa Cruz
Ontario	Savannah
Ottawa	Schleswig Holstein
Ottoman Empire	Scylla and Charybdis
Paderewski	Sebastopol
Pall Mall	Seidlitz powder
Paraguay (S. America)	Septuagesima Sunday
Penang	Sèvres
	Sexagesima

Shakespeare—This spelling is usually accepted nowadays	Vallombrosa
Stoic	Valparaiso
Sudan	Versailles
Sweden	Wadi Halfa (Town in Sudan)
Talavera	Walcheren
Tammany Hall	Wickliffe (Church re-former)
Thessalonian	Woolwich
Terra del Fuego	Xenophon
Transvaal	Xerxes
Uganda	Zambesi
Utopia	Zollverein
Valhalla	

II

FOREIGN PHRASES AND HOW TO SPELL THEM

- Ab initio—From the beginning.
 Ad libitum—As much as one desires.
 Ad nauseam—Until one becomes sick.
 Ad valorem—According to the worth.
 A fortiori—With stronger reason.
 Anno Domini (A.D.)—The year of Our Lord.
 Annus mirabilis—The wonderful year.
 Ante meridiem (A.M.)—Before noon.
 A priori—From the cause to the effect.
 Arrière pensée—A hidden thought.
 Au courant—Acquainted with.
 Au revoir—Until we see each other again.
 Bête noire—One's pet aversion.
 Bis dat qui cito dat—He gives twice who gives quickly.
 Bon mot—A smart, witty saying.
 Bon vivant—A hearty eater.
 Casus belli—A cause of war.

- Cause célèbre—A scandal.
 Caveat emptor—Let the buyer beware.
 Cave canem—Beware of the dog.
 Cela va sans dire—A matter of course.
 Chacun à son goût—Everybody his own mind.
 Comme il faut—As it ought to be.
 Con amore—With fervour.
 Contretemps—A hitch.
 Corrigenda—Things to be corrected.
 Coup de grace—The finishing thrust.
 Coûte que coûte—Cost what it may.
 Cui bono—To whose advantage?
 Cul-de-sac—A blind alley.
 Cum privilegio—With privilege.
 Dei gratia—By the grace of God.
 Dénouement—The outcome or result.
 De novo—Again.
 Deo volente (D.V.)—God willing.
 Dies non—A day that does not count.
 Dolce far niente—Sweet idleness.
 Dum spiro, spero—While I breathe I hope.
 Ecce homo—Behold the man.
 En bloc—As a whole.
 En deshabillé—Not properly dressed.
 En masse—In a body or mass.
 Entente cordiale—A cordial understanding.
 Entourage—Surroundings or associates.
 Et cetera—And the rest.
 Eureka—I have found it.
 Ex cathedra—From the chair (of authority).
 Exeunt omnes—They all go out.
 Facile princeps—Undoubtedly pre-eminent.
 Fait accompli—Something already done.
 Faut pas—A mistake.
 Fidei defensor—Defender of the Faith.
 Flagrante delicto—Caught in the act.
 Gauche—Awkward.
 Gloria in excelsis—Glory in the highest.
 Grace à Dieu—Thanks to God.
 Hors de combat—Disabled.

Ich dien—I serve.

Il n'y a pas de quoi—There is nothing to trouble about.

Impasse—A deadlock.

Impedimenta—Things that overload one's person.

In extenso—At full length.

In extremis—On the point of dying.

Infra dig —Beneath one's dignity.

In loco parentis—In the position of a parent.

In medias res—In the midst of things.

In situ—In its proper position.

In statu quo—In the state it was at the beginning.

Inter alia—Amongst other things.

In toto—Entirely.

Ipsa facto—Owing to the very fact.

Jeu d'esprit—A witty remark.

Laissez-faire—A policy of not interfering.

Lèse-majesté—High treason.

Locum tenens—One who holds the post of another temporarily.

Magnum opus—A great work.

Mariage de convenance—A marriage arranged for ulterior reasons.

Mirabile dictu—Marvellous to relate.

Modus operandi—The manner of working.

Multum in parvo—Much in little.

Mutatis mutandis—With the changes needed.

Née—Born (Followed by a married woman's maiden name.)

Négligé—Dress of informal character.

Ne plus ultra—The farthest point; i.e., perfection.)

Nil desperandum—Do not despair.

N'importe—It does not matter.

Nolens volens—Unwilling or willing.

Nom de plume—A name under which a person writes.

Non compos mentis—Not in one's right mind.

Non sequitur—A thing that does not follow.

- Nota bene—Note well.
Nous verrons—We shall see. Time will tell.
Obiter dictum—A thing said by the way.
Ora pro nobis—Pray for us.
Pari passu—Side by side.
Parole d'honneur—Word of honour.
Parvenu—An upstart.
Peccavi—I have sinned.
Persona grata—A friendly person.
Pièce de résistance—The best thing (out of many).
Pied-à-terre—A foothold. A resting place.
Prima facie—On the face of it.
Pro bono publico—For the good of the people.
Pro et con—For and against.
Quid pro quo—Something for something.
Rapprochement—A bringing together.
Répondez s'il vous plait (R.S.V.P.)—Please reply.
Rus in urbe—The country in the town.
Sang froid—Keeping one's head.
Sans souci—Without caring.
Sauve qui peut—Let those save themselves who can.
Semper idem—Always the same.
Seriatim—One at a time.
Sine die—Until a day which probably never comes.
Sub judice—Under consideration.
Summum bonum—The highest good.
Sursum corda—Lift up your hearts.
Tempus fugit—Time flies.
Terra incognita—An unknown place.
Tour de force—A feat of strength.
Tu quoque—Thou also.
Ultra vires—Beyond the law.
Verbatim—Word for word.
Vice-versâ—A thing performed both ways.
Videlicet—Namely.
Vis-à-vis—Face to face.
Viva voce—Orally.
Vox populi—The voice of the people.

III

DICTATION EXERCISES

It is suggested that the student should obtain the aid of a friend who would read aloud to him one of the following tests, occasionally. When further passages are required the newspapers will supply them in plenty.

I

Philately has had its share of sensations, and many famous specimens might be described as square inches of romance. A "Brattleboro" was discovered by a ragpicker, and a mere boy first set eyes upon the world's rarest stamp, the unique cent magenta of British Guiana. Other great rarities owe their preservation to the white-haired old lady with a ribbon-bound packet of letters that stirred the tenderest emotions of her spring time. The blue "Alexandria" was thus handed down to posterity on a love letter, which its recipient kept from profane eyes for sixty years.

From "The Philatelic Magazine."

2

To be truly termed a horseman, a man requires to be something more than an accomplished rider; he must be a horse-master—that is to say, expert in the care of horses, their diet, stable management, with breaking and training; he must be able to criticise shoeing, with knowledge of the various methods of relieving defective feet or defective action; he must be able to diagnose lameness, ascertain the cause and apply, at any rate, first aid. Then there is the valuable experience, gained only in a training stable, of getting a horse up to the high

water-mark of fitness, and learning that each animal responds to different treatment both in the matter of food and work. There is no end to the new experiences which come to even the oldest hand in the matter of horse-mastership, and the owner of horses should always be ready to learn. It must be confessed, however, that there are many men who keep first-class horses and are no mean performers themselves, but are novices in respect of many of the things I have mentioned. Is it to be wondered at? They have the money and they have the keenness, but they have neither the time nor the opportunity to learn, so they keep a reliable head-groom, and all goes well. They can, and do, pay for their want of knowledge.

The question then arises whether a central institution would do any good. The man who hunts or plays polo is not necessarily an idler, though he may not be earning a living in the ordinary sense of the term. When he finds time for three or four days a week with hounds, his remaining days are very full ones. Would he be able to devote himself to a course of horsemanship and horse-mastership which, to be of any use, must extend to some months? I think not.

From "Country Life."

3

When you think that a creature, which is almost microscopic, can raise a bump as big as a hazel nut on the human flesh you will agree that, size for size, cobras and rattlesnakes are not in it.

Both the mosquito and the midge have an uncanny intelligence for their prey. Hunted away by both of them from the lawn with the apple trees, we had for a day or two peaceful meals under the pear tree in the paddock. But they found us out, and now that also is the home of slapping and profanity.

However, your mosquito and your midge, bad as they may be, are small potatoes compared with the cleg, whom some call, quite wrongly, the horsefly. He is a little bigger than an ordinary housefly, grey in colour, of malignant aspect, and absolutely silent in attack.

The cleg dwells near water, and usually the first notice you have of his onset is the stab, which, by the way, he is quite capable of delivering most efficiently even through your flannels.

Take his bite seriously and apply strong ammonia or permanganate of potash as soon as ever you can.

From "The Referee."

4

Those holiday resorts line the shores of the Firth of Clyde. The Firth of Clyde is one of the most beautiful stretches of land and sea that occur in these islands. One of the things that make the Firth of Clyde holiday different is the daily cruise by steamer. If you are staying in one of these places and stroll out on to the little pier after breakfast you will find a procession of trim, well-kept paddle steamers hustling up to the stumpy little pier and carrying away about half the inhabitants for a day's sailing among the lochs of that glorious region. It is smooth sailing wherever you go, and if you stay there a month, you can make a different excursion every day. The steamers are as well kept as if an army of Scotch housewives had scrubbed each of them overnight.

From an "L.M.S." advertisement.

5

To the minnow every cranny and pebble, and quality and accident of its little native creek may have become familiar; but does the minnow

understand the ocean tides and periodic currents, the trade-winds, and monsoons, and Moon's eclipses, by all which the conditions of its little creek are regulated, and may, from time to time, be quite upset and reversed? Such a minnow is man; his creek this planet Earth; his ocean the immeasurable All; his monsoons and periodic currents the mysterious Course of Providence through aeons of aeons.

Thomas Carlyle.

6

The Puritans were men whose minds had derived a peculiar character from the daily contemplation of superior beings and eternal interests.

Not content with acknowledging, in general terms, an overruling Providence, they habitually ascribed every event to the will of the Great Being for whose power nothing was too vast, for whose inspection nothing was too minute. To know him, to serve him, to enjoy him, was with them the great end of existence.

If they were unacquainted with the works of philosophers and poets, they were deeply read in the oracles of God. If their names were not found in the registers of heralds, they were recorded in the Book of Life. If their steps were not accompanied by a splendid train of menials, legions of ministering angels had charge of them. Their palaces were houses not made with hands; their diadems crowns of glory which should never fade away.

The very meanest of them was a being to whose fate a mysterious and terrible importance belonged, on whose slightest actions the spirits of light and darkness looked with anxious interest, who had been destined, before Heaven and Earth were created, to enjoy a felicity which should continue when Heaven and Earth should have passed away.

Macaulay.

7

To awaken each morning with a smile brightening my face, to greet the day with reverence for the opportunities it contains ; to approach my work with a clean mind ; to hold ever before me, even in the doing of little things, the Ultimate Purpose toward which I am working ; to meet men and women with laughter on my lips and love in my heart ; to be gentle, kind, and courteous through all the hours ; to approach the night with weariness that ever woos sleep and the joy that comes from work well done—this is how I desire to waste wisely my days.

Thomas Dreier.

8

Much can be ascertained from a clock apart from the time of day. Used in conjunction with a speedometer, average speeds may be calculated with a degree of accuracy sufficient for most amateur needs. To the trials driver who has to gauge his speed to within fine limits a clock on the dashboard is indispensable, especially when he is taking part in a long all-night trial and has a sleepy passenger, who is none too willing to unbutton several thick coats and fumble for his timepiece. The clock serves only as a guide, it is true, for the accuracy of a good stop-watch is generally essential in a competition.

From "The Light Car."

8

If a man would be alone, let him look at the stars. The rays that come from those heavenly worlds will separate between him and what he touches.

One might think the atmosphere was made transparent with this design, to give man, in the heavenly bodies, the perpetual presence of the sublime. Seen in the streets of cities, how great they are !

If the stars should appear one night in a thousand years, how would men believe and adore and preserve for many generations the remembrance of the city of God which had been shown ? But every night come out these envoys of beauty, and light the universe with their admonishing smile.

Emerson.

9

Knowledge is like the mystic ladder in the Patriarch's dream. Its base rests on the primeval Earth—its crest is lost in the shadowy splendour of the empyrean ; while the great authors, who for traditionary ages have held the chain of science and philosophy, of poesy and erudition, are the angels ascending and descending the sacred scale, and maintaining, as it were, the communication between Earth and Heaven.

Lord Beaconsfield.

10

That man approaches most nearly to such perfection as is attainable in human life whose body has kept in vigorous health by temperance, soberness, and chastity ; whose mind is a rich storehouse of the wisdom learned both from experience and from the noblest thoughts which his fellow men have uttered ; whose imagination is a picture gallery of all things pure and beautiful ; whose conscience is at peace with itself, with God, and with all the world ; and in whose spirit the Divine Spirit finds a fitting temple wherein to dwell.

Dean Farrar.

II

Our early English Literature speaks in a voice which, though rude and stammering, echoes the tones and imparts the meaning of our own.

It calls up before us the perished world in which our forefathers lived, a world whose ignorance was the seed-bed of our knowledge, whose tempestuous energy cleared the foundations for our social regularity and refinement. It issues from scenes which fancy loves to beautify, from the picturesque cloister and the dim scholastic cell, from the feudal castle blazing with knightly pomp, and the field decked for the tilt and tournament, from forests through which swept the storm of chase, and plains resounding with the shout and clang of battle.

William Spalding.

12

As the patient uttered these words he sprang from the bed, dragging Montholon, who endeavoured to restrain him, on to the floor.

It was the last effort of that formidable energy. He was with difficulty replaced in bed, and then lay quietly till near six o'clock in the evening, when he yielded his last breath.

A great storm was raging outside which shook the frail huts of the soldiers as with an earthquake, tore up the trees the Emperor had planted, and uprooted the willow under which he was accustomed to repose. Within, the faithful Marchand was covering the corpse with the cloak the young conqueror had worn at Marengo.

Lord Rosebery.



